

## **Acton Commission on Disabilities Announcements: March, 2014**

- The Community Preservation Committee accepted the proposal for the accessible bog trail. This now has to be approved at Town Meeting for the project to continue.

The Architectural Access Board provided a letter of support to the Women's Club to assist in finding funding to continue their work with making the building accessible

- The Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council is holding their Legislative Education Day on March 20 from 10:30 to 2:30 at the State Housecome support the legislation that supports the plans that give us opportunity to live in the community
  - Gov. Patrick proclaimed March to be "Developmental and Intellectual Disability Awareness month"
1. MassARC (association of "Retarded Citizens) and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council held a rally on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the State House to promote awareness and support of House bill 152 the "Real Lives"
  - 2.
  3. The Deaf/ Hard of Hearing constituents' day at the State House will be on March 24 from 10 to noon
  4. bill that would allow individual consumers to have more say in their services., and House bill 1674 which would require agencies to conduct a federal criminal background check instead of the state one, as many employees came from towns other states borderingMassachusetts. This event was well attended by advocates, self –advocates, families, and legislators. Rep. Brian Dempsey, and Sen. Jennifer Flanagan were both awarded for their continued support of People with disabilities.
  5. The Boston Council on disabilities along with the Somerville cOD are asking people to call their legislators to support increased funding for the

**Alternative Housing Voucher (line item 7004 -9030) Acton is represented by Sen. Jamie eldritch and rep. Jen Bensen**

**Mass RC's Embracing thru Arts "a festival that embraces all abilities through arts" will be held on April 25, 26, and 27 at the Medford Arts Center Inc. (617 – 605 73240 ( [embracingthougharts@gmail.com](mailto:embracingthougharts@gmail.com))**